

## BORDERS AND BORDER REGIONS IN 20TH-CENTURY EUROPE

Übung, Sommersemester 2024

Thursdays 10 am-12 noon c.t. (10.15 am – 11.45 am)

Dorotheenstr. 24, room 1.405

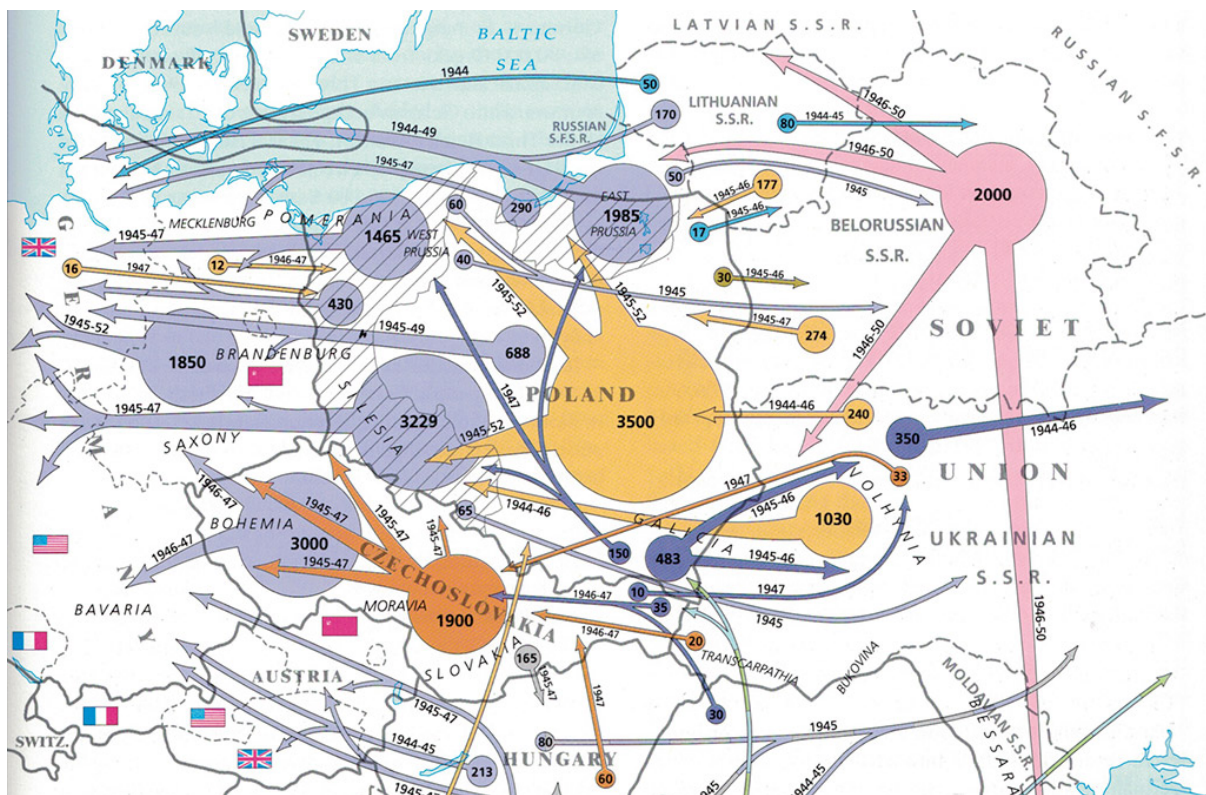
Instructor: Dr. Andrew Tompkins

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Population movements, 1944-1948 (extract). From P.R. Magocsi, Historical Atlas of East Central Europe (Seattle, 1993), p. 165

### Description

Borders within and surrounding Europe have moved repeatedly throughout history, but rarely so frequently or so violently as during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This class examines how processes of bordering and de-bordering since the First World War have shaped European states and peoples. It explores notions of territoriality, the construction and dismantling of borders, migration and forced migration, subversive social practices and ambiguous identities in borderlands. Case studies covered in class and in further readings focus primarily on East-Central Europe, including the former Austro-Hungarian and Russian empires, German-Polish borderlands, divided Cold War Germany, and the European Union.

The class itself and all mandatory readings will be in English. Alternate readings may be available in German for some sessions.

## Assessment

As an *Übung*, this course is worth TWO (2) credits/*Leistungspunkte* (LP). You will receive 1 LP for each of the following:

1. **TWO short responses** to the assigned materials for class.
  - Each response (approx. 500 words or 3000-3750 characters) should be a considered reflection of all the material assigned for a particular class, written in paragraph form in either English or German. Do not merely summarize the material – your response should show how you interpret the material and especially how you bring different texts together.
  - Each response must conclude with two discussion questions. These should not be simple yes/no questions or ask your fellow students to simply recall information from the readings.
  - In order to receive full credit, your response must be submitted **by 9.00 pm the night before class**. Responses that are not submitted before class will not receive any credit.
  - You may choose to write a response to the material for any lesson, but one response must be submitted by **6 June 2024**, the other by **18 July 2024**.
2. A **book review** of a full-length academic monograph on a topic in border studies (max. 7.500 characters in length). You must obtain approval from me in advance for the book you wish to review. Try to write in the style of a review that could be published in an academic journal (you may find examples in journals like the *American Historical Review*, *H-Soz-u-Kult*, or *Central European History*). This will typically include a summary of the book's main arguments and structure, your interpretation/critique of the work, and an evaluation of its merits. Book reviews are due **by noon on Friday, 5 July 2024**.

## Seminar Overview

<u>Sitzung</u>	<u>Datum</u>	<u>Thema</u>
1	18 April 2024	Introduction
2	25 April 2024	What is a Border?
3	2 May 2024	Borders on Paper: Maps
	9 May 2024	<i>No class (holiday)</i>
4	16 May 2024	Nationalist thinking and borderland knowledge
5	23 May 2024	Between borders: National indifference
6	30 May 2024	How (not) to draw a border: Northern Ireland
7	6 June 2024	Borders on paper: Passports
8	13 June 2024	Violent borders: Soviet borderlands
9	20 June 2024	Who divided Germany?
	27 June 2024	<i>No class (Dies academicus)</i>
10	4 July 2024	Cold War border environments
11	11 July 2024	Disappearing borders at the end of the Cold War
12	18 July 2024	Controlling borders in the EU

## Seminar outline

Week 1 (18.4.2024) – Introduction

Week 2 (25.4.2024) – What is a Border?

*Required reading*

- Chiara Brambilla, 'Exploring the Critical Potential of the Borderscapes Concept', *Geopolitics*, 20, 1 (2015), 14–34
- James W. Scott, 'European Politics of Borders, Border Symbolism and Cross-Border Cooperation', in Thomas M. Wilson and Hastings Donnan, eds., *A Companion to Border Studies* (Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, 2012), 83–99

Week 3 (2.5.2024) – Borders on Paper: Maps

*Required reading*

- Catherine Tatiana Dunlop, *Cartophilia: Maps and the Search for Identity in the French-German Borderland* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2015), 47–69 (Ch. 2 “What makes a good border?”)
- Kristin Leigh Kopp, *Germany's Wild East: Constructing Poland as Colonial Space* (Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press, 2012), 124–59 (Ch. 4 “Post-Colonial Mappings”)

Week 4 (9.5.2024) – No class (Holiday)

Week 5 (16.5.2024) – Nationalist thinking and borderland knowledge

*Required reading*

- Machteld Venken, *Peripheries at the Centre: Borderland Schooling in Interwar Europe* (New York: Berghahn Books, 2021), 119–55 (Ch. 4 “Scaping the Border”)

Week 6 (23.5.2024) – Between borders: National indifference

*Required reading*

- Tara Zahra, 'Imagined Noncommunities: National Indifference as a Category of Analysis', *Slavic Review*, 69, 1 (2010), 93–119

*Suggested further reading*

Tara Zahra, 'The 'Minority Problem' and National Classification in the French and Czechoslovak Borderlands', *Contemporary European History*, 17, 2 (2008), 137–165  
Peter Polak-Springer, 'Landscapes of Revanchism. Building and the Contestation of Space in an Industrial Polish-German Borderland, 1922–1945', *Central European History*, 45, 03 (2012), 485–522

Week 7 (30.5.2024) – How (not) to draw a border: Northern Ireland

*Required reading*

- Peter Leary, *Unapproved Routes: Histories of the Irish Border, 1922-1972* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016), 31–59

Week 8 (6.6.2024) – Borders on paper: Passports

*Required reading*

- John C. Torpey, 'The Great War and the Birth of the Modern Passport System', in Jane Caplan and John C. Torpey, eds., *Documenting Individual Identity: The Development of State Practices in the Modern World* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2001), 256–270
- Leo Lucassen, 'A Many-Headed Monster. The Evolution of the Passport System in the Netherlands and Germany in the Long Nineteenth Century', in Jane Caplan and John C. Torpey, eds., *Documenting Individual Identity: The Development of State Practices in the Modern World* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2001), 235–255

Week 9 (13.6.2024) – Violent borders: Soviet Ukraine and Poland

*Required reading*

- Kate Brown, *A Biography of No Place: From Ethnic Borderland to Soviet Heartland* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2004), 1-17, 134-152 (Introduction and Ch. 5 "A Diary of Deportation")

Week 10 (20.6.2024) – Who divided Germany?

*Required reading*

- Edith Sheffer, 'On Edge. Building the Border in East and West Germany', *Central European History*, 40, 2 (2007), 307–339

Week 11 (27.6.2024) – No class (Dies academicus)

Week 12 (4.7.2024) – Cold War border environments

*Required reading*

- Astrid M. Eckert, *West Germany and the Iron Curtain: Environment, Economy, and Culture in the Borderlands* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2019), 159–99 (Ch. 5 "Transboundary natures")
- Hilary Cunningham, 'Permeabilities, Ecology and Geopolitical Boundaries', in Thomas M. Wilson and Hastings Donnan, eds., *A Companion to Border Studies* (Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, 2012), 371–386

Week 13 (11.7.2024) – Disappearing borders at the end of the Cold War

*Required reading*

- Daphne Berdahl, *Where the World Ended: Re-unification and Identity in the German Borderland* (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1999), Ch. 5 (opening section and portion from "The wall in our heads" to the end)
- Béatrice von Hirschhausen, Hannes Grandits, Claudia Kraft, Dietmar Müller and Thomas Serrier, 'Phantom Borders in Eastern Europe: A New Concept for Regional Research', *Slavic Review*, 78, 2 (2019), 368–389

Week 14 (18.7.2024) – Controlling borders in the EU

*Required reading*

- Didier Fassin, 'Policing Borders, Producing Boundaries. The Governmentality of Immigration in Dark Times', *Annual Review of Anthropology*, 40 (2011), 213–226
- For reading responses: One additional article of your own choosing